



GreenbackerSM

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

Community Engagement Plan

Rock District Solar, LLC



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Company Profile: Rock District Solar, LLC (the “Project” or “Rock District”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company LLC (“GREC” or “Greenbacker”). Founded in 2011 by a group of industry veterans, Greenbacker had a single goal of creating an investment vehicle that would enable the ordinary American investor to participate in the burgeoning revolution of renewable energy to tackle climate change. Over the years, Greenbacker has evolved into a publicly reporting, non-traded climate-focused investment manager, independent power producer, and long-term owner and operator of renewable infrastructure assets across North America. As of today, Greenbacker currently manages over 3.3 GW of wind, solar, energy storage, and biomass projects across 445 projects in 35 states, districts, and provinces. As an already active operator and owner of 100 MW of wind and solar in New York, Greenbacker has established itself as a long-term partner with the State of New York and the communities it operates in.

Project Summary: The Project, as proposed, is an approximately 26.94 MW utility-scale solar facility located in the Town of Carlisle and Town of Seward, Schoharie County, New York. The Project will be located on private lands that are primarily rural in nature, of which the Project will utilize approximately 126 acres. The Project is in the late stages of development and although project details may evolve prior to the start of construction, the Project design, area, and boundary are ultimately in their final stages.

The Project’s facilities will include commercial-scale solar arrays, access roads, buried (and possibly overhead) electric collection lines, a collection substation, and electrical interconnection facilities with the interconnecting utility National Grid. The Project’s proposed Point of Interconnection (“POI”) is a direct tap of the National Grid’s 69kV Marshville-Cobleskill Line 16/17 in the Schoharie County, New York with the addition of line switches and monopoles to interconnect the line to new Collector Substation and the Point of Change of Ownership (“PCO”). The POI will specifically be between Line 17 Structures 105 and 106 approximately 12.1 miles from National Grid’s Marshville Substation and 3.84 miles from the Cobleskill Substation.

Project Benefits: the Project will have considerable, positive socioeconomic impacts through its development, construction, and long-term operations. During its expected 18-month construction cycle, Greenbacker estimates that the Project will generate more than 100 temporary construction jobs and will look to source as much local labor to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, the underlying land used to house the Project’s generating facilities will economically benefit the landowner, either through long-term rent or upfront payments. Aside from the direct benefits of local employment and spending, indirect benefits to the community would include increased spending in the economy through increased restaurant use, hotel usage, and gas consumption during the Project’s construction window. Local employment will primarily benefit those in the construction trades, including equipment operators, truck drivers, electricians, and laborers. Once the Project is fully operational, it is projected to generate upwards of 37,244 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) of clean, sustainable electricity in a single year. Utilizing the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (“EIA”) public data on average annual electricity used by U.S. residential households, the Project will have the ability to provide 100% clean, affordable electricity to approximately 3,451 households within Schoharie County.



As the Project progresses through the 94-c process, it will look to secure both a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) Agreement and a Host Community Agreement (“HCA”) with the local taxing jurisdictions and community. Although the exact dollar amount per MW can vary across the State, the Project’s long-term financial contributions to the community can increase the local community’s annual operating budget and be tailored to support community programs and potential infrastructure projects.

Greenbacker and the Project understand New York State’s commitment in prioritizing the safety and health of disadvantaged communities through implementation of the CLCPA, while also seeing there is a continual increase in the demand for energy in the State. This Project will help New York State create a local, emission free, source of energy while maintaining greenspaces and aiding in keeping small family farms in business. Upon operation, solar projects do not emit any greenhouse gases. Indirectly, this Project along with other renewable energy projects, is assisting the State of New York meet energy demands in a non-conventional way. Conventional energy generation is historically sited in areas where disadvantaged populations live, and renewable energy projects help meet this demand without adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and disproportionately impacting such communities.

Zoning: the Project’s original development team, Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC (“Cypress Creek”) began its initial outreach to the Town of Carlisle, Town of Seward, and Schoharie County in late 2018. Over an extensive 18-month period, Cypress Creek met with several local representatives from the Town of Carlisle Planning Board, Town of Seward Planning Board, SUNY Cobleskill, Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District, and the Schoharie County Planning and Development Agency. The Town of Carlisle accepted the Project’s initial zoning application dated February 9, 2020 and declared its intent to be lead agency under the State’s Type 1 SEQRA process on August 10th, 2021. After an extensive 15-month process conducted by the lead agency, third-party consultants, comments from the involved agencies, stakeholders, adjacent landowners, the community, and the many environmental reports and studies prepared by the Project, the Town of Carlisle Planning Board issued a Negative Declaration under SEQRA as the lead agency on December 14, 2022. Following the Project’s first public hearing in the Town of Seward after the Negative Declaration under SEQRA, the Project elected to opt-in to the 94-c state-led zoning process managed under the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”) and submitted a formal transfer application on April 18, 2023. On June 20, 2023, ORES issued a Notice of Incomplete Application (“NOIA”), in which the Project re-submitted a revised application with supplemental material in December 2023. The Project is awaiting a response from ORES about its application currently under review.

